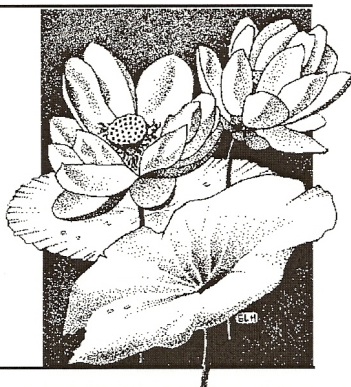


# Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the  
NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



OCTOBER 2017



## A Franklin Island Adventure

by Jan Grincevicius

Never heard of Franklin Island? Well, neither had we until we saw information for a photography workshop being held there. This workshop was offered by Photo Tour Trekkers and the leader was Harry Cartner.

Franklin Island is in Lake Huron about two kilometers off the coast from Perry Sound. It is described as “exquisite, pristine and virtually untouched by man. The island is just the way it would have been found millions of years ago when the Canadian Shield was formed.” Well, that got our attention! We contacted our friends, Sue and Ken Olmstead, and immediately we signed up.



Franklin Island is a 2,261 acre Ontario Provincial Reserve Park, part of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Line and the Georgian Bay International UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The island has unique beauty, natural deep water harbours and amazing rock formations. The island has two very different personalities. The west shore is very rocky, wild and remote. The eastern shore features more sloping landscapes, and is much more protected from the prevailing westerly winds coming in off the Bay.

To have minimal impact on the island’s terrain; and, receive lots of individual assistance from our tour leader, Harry, workshop groups are limited to a small number of people. Our group was seven.

Our home base for this four-day excursion was Snug Harbour Resort.

We arrived mid-afternoon on September 18<sup>th</sup> and got settled into our cottage. We couldn’t resist the opportunity to take a few photos around the resort property. Our group got together for a welcome barbeque followed by an orientation. The rest of the evening was spent getting gear together in preparation for the next day.

At 6:00 the next morning, with Kent, our captain, at the helm, we motored over to “Hollywood Island” 15 minutes from shore, hoping to be there to catch the sunrise. Unfortunately, the skies remained cloud-covered — so no sunrise photos. However, this was an advantage when taking photographs of the very unusual striations in the rocks, small plants, lichens and moss. We spent about three hours there. Harry, our workshop leader, reminded us to make sure our tripods were secure on the uneven rocks and our cameras safely locked in the tripod mount. A short time later, we heard metal hitting the rocks, followed by a loud expletive. Guess whose camera escaped the tripod and hit the ground. He was on his cell phone immediately arranging for a new camera



Photo: Ken Olmstead

# A Franklin Island Adventure

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to be delivered. It was to arrive in a couple of days.



Photo: Len Grincevicius

During this time, the wind shifted around and was coming from the east. This made holding our boat in place and getting on somewhat of an adventure. However, with all aboard we headed off to “Sharon’s Rock” in Secret Cove on Franklin Island. This large rock (approximately 10 m tall) has many fissures and with some imagination, the outline of several creatures can be seen. For example, bear, eagle, whale, snake and mermaid. A pair of Mergansers came over to check us out but then swam off.

Back on the boat, we took a bit of a tour around Gaspar Island, the Snug Harbour Lighthouse, and Snug Harbour before heading back to the lodge for lunch and an afternoon siesta.

Mid-afternoon, we returned to the island for another four hours, this time focusing on “Rosemary’s Pond”. There were lots of interesting rock formations and colours. The lichens ranged in colour from saturated yellow to deep orange. We could photograph lots of reflections in the pond. The weather was overcast but not rainy. Unfortunately, sunset photos did not bless our cameras. We returned to the resort tired and hungry, but excited about what we saw and did that day.



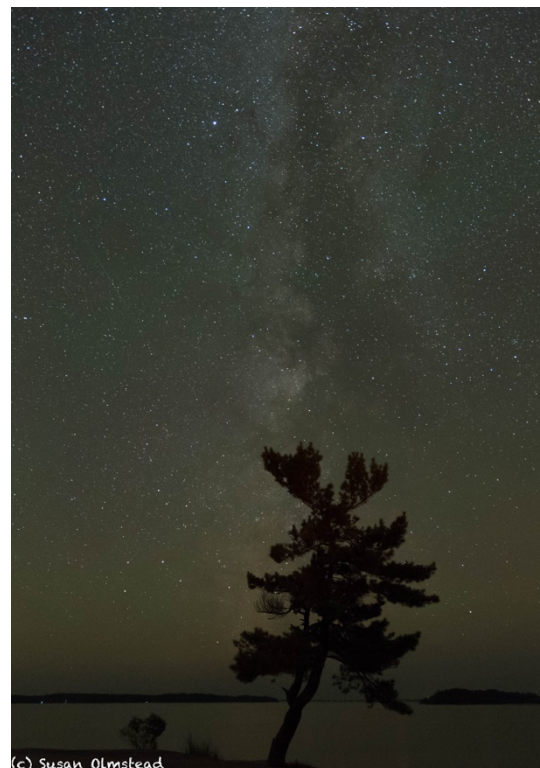
Photo: Jan Grincevicius

Following supper, we got together to review some images shot that day.

In the morning, we went to another location on Franklin Island, aptly named “Fluted Rocks” and “Harry’s Point”. Using a wide-angle lens, many more abstract photos were evident. The creative juices sure were running! Overhead we saw a Great Blue Heron and, later, an Osprey. Once we lost our early morning light about 9:00 a.m., Captain Kent took us for a boat ride further north and then up the Shebeshekong River. He noted that last year, he was not able to get his boat further than just the river mouth. However, this year, water levels are up more than a metre, so we ventured approximately a kilometer from the Georgian Bay shore. We found one area with 20-metre-high cliffs overlooking the river. So beautiful! A lone loon was cooperative and several photos were taken before it dove to go fishing.

Around 4:00 p.m., we returned to another unique location, just up the shore from “Fluted Rocks”. Using coniferous trees and rocks as our foreground, we were able to shoot the water looking to the south-west. The sun remained so we headed to Pancake Bay to photograph the sunset. What fantastic colours!

Supper was most welcome following our afternoon and evening of walking and shooting photos. Such hard work!



(c) Susan Olmstead

Photo: Sue Olmstead



## A Franklin Island Adventure

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With clear skies, we headed out to nearby Killbear Provincial Park to do a night photography shoot. All that dark sky sure presented some great opportunities for photographing a wind-swept coniferous tree with the Milky Way in the background. For most of us, this was the first time attempting this type of photography. Working in the dark was a challenge!

On Thursday, it was time to head for home. A great time was had by all of us; and we looked forward to downloading all our photos for closer perusal.



## BRIEFS

### Greater Golden Horseshoe

The Government of Ontario is conducting public consultations on their plan to identify and map a natural heritage system across the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Natural heritage systems planning is widely recognized by landscape ecologists and planners as the most effective approach to recover biodiversity and prepare for the impacts of climate change. It is vital that this plan is done right to protect our region's nature, water and communities! The Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership has identified some major gaps in the government's plan. Urge the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Kathryn McGarry, to address these deficiencies, before the plan is finalized.

For further info on these topics, and more, visit:  
**ontarionature.org**

**Thank You!**

From Norfolk Field Naturalists to  
**Will Partridge / Guardian Computing**  
For hosting our website

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting held on September 12<sup>th</sup>, the following were approved:

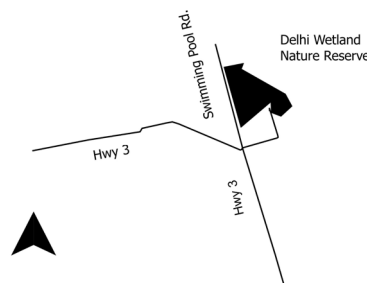
- ❶ Audited Financial Statements (see insert)
- ❷ President's Report (see insert)
- ❸ New Director-at-Large  
Welcome to: Cindy Presant

We are still looking for a Secretary and two Directors-at-Large. If you are interested, please contact Inga Hinnerichsen, President.

The next BoD Meeting will be held on October 24, 2017. The report from this meeting will be in the December issue of the Lotus.

## FIND OUT MORE

**Delhi Wetland Nature Reserve** – This reserve is nestled in a deep valley alongside Big Creek north of Delhi. Despite its relatively small size (12 acres), the property includes a diversity of habitat types, including: mature hemlock and hardwood forests on the ravine slopes and uplands; a small stream flowing through the narrow valley; a perched grass and sedge wetland; and, a cedar-fringed ox-bow pond at the property's lowest elevations. LPBLT is grateful to the Kiss and Woytas family for donation of this land.



Go to <http://longpointlandtrust.ca/our-lands/delhi-wetland-nature-reserve/>

## Upcoming NFN 2017-18 Fall/Winter Events

**Saturday, October 21, 2017**  
**1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

### **Fall Colours of Long Point Basin Land Trust's Strongman- Guiler Property**

Join Lyndsay Shular for a Fall tour of one of LPBLT's newest properties. Meet at the parking lot on the north side of Front Road and on the west side of Fisher's Glen. Be prepared for a bit of an uphill walk for access. *Contact Len at 519-428-6796.*

**Sunday, January 21, 2018**  
**2:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

### **Winter Birding in Haldimand County**

The fields and pasture of Haldimand attract many wintering raptors, including Short-Eared Owls. The open water along the Lake Erie shoreline can be a good spot for waterfowl and the occasional Bald Eagle. Bring binoculars and wear warm clothing. Meet in Port Dover at the base of the dock on the west side of the harbor. *Contact Len at 519-428-6796.*

**Saturday, March 3, 2018**  
**7:30 to 9:00 p.m.**

### **What a Hoot — Owl Prowl**

Take a moon lit hike as we play the recorded calls of local owls to entice them to answer us. Listen to the deep hoot of the Great Horned Owl and the horse-like whinny of the Eastern Screech Owl. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. This is a joint event with Nature's Calling Environmental Education. Location TBA. *Contact Bernie at 519-428-0706.*

## NFN Meetings

Norfolk Field Naturalist meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from September to May.

Meetings take place at the **Simcoe Seniors Centre, 89 Pond Street.** The meetings are free and visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 7:15 pm, programs begin at 7:30 pm.

## NFN Mailing Address

**Norfolk Field Naturalists**  
**PO Box 995, Simcoe, ON**  
**N3Y 5B3**

## Next Lotus Issue:

**December 2017**  
**Input dead line:**  
**Friday, November 24,**  
**2017**

## About the NFN

Norfolk Field Naturalists members participate in meetings and field outings, many of which are family-friendly. **Membership fees are \$20 Individual and \$30 Family.**

Donations are eligible for income tax credits. Charitable registration # 11905869RR00001

Guest speakers present programs on interesting and relevant natural history and conservation topics. Club members receive the Lotus newsletter with articles on local natural history and club activities. Copies of the Lotus are available at meetings, by mail or by email and posted on the NFN web site. Articles published in the lotus reflect the views and opinions of the authors, but not necessarily those of the NFN.

**[www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org](http://www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org)**

## **2017 - 2018 NFN Executive with Contact and Project Information**

		<u>All 519-</u>	
<b>President</b>	Inga Hinnerichsen	875-5601	daveinga@live.ca
<b>Vice-President</b>	Len Grincevicius	428-6796	portie_1989@eastlink.ca
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Peter Carson	586-3985	gartcar@kwic.com
<b>Past President</b>	Bernie Solymár	427-9969	solymar@nornet.on.ca
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barb Hourigan	583-1198	bbhourigan@yahoo.ca
<b>Secretary</b>	vacant		
<b>Director/Membership</b>	Diane Salter	586-7775	bigcreek@kwic.com
<b>Director Speaker Program</b>			
<b>and Field Events</b>	Len Grincevicius	428-6796	portie_1989@eastlink.ca
<b>Director Publicity</b>	Sue Olmstead	583-1436	ksolmstead@kwic.com
<b>Director Environment</b>	Bernie Solymár	427-9969	solymar@nornet.on.ca
<b>Director-at-large</b>	Ken Olmstead	583-1436	ksolmstead@kwic.com
<b>Director-at-large</b>	Cindy Presant	586-9258	cindy.presant@gmail.com
<b>Director-at-large</b>	vacant		
<b>Director-at-large</b>	vacant		
<b>Lotus Editor (appointed)</b>	Jan Grincevicius	519-428-6796	pwdtwo_2@eastlink.ca
<b>Butterfly Counts (appointed)</b>	Adam Timpf	586-9964	
<b>Christmas Bird Counts (appointed)</b>	David Okines - Woodhouse Count	519-586-9464	
	Linda Thrower - Fisherville Count	905-774-1230	
<b>Honorary President:</b>	vacant		
<b>Honorary Directors:</b>	vacant		